

that Geoffrey will do very well during his career at United States Military Academy and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING BRAD KOHRMANN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body of Congress today to praise a man who has volunteered his time to help solve the mystery behind the unfortunate explosion of the space shuttle *Columbia*. This event was a tragic moment in our nation's history, but I am proud to know that our country and its citizens are making every effort to ensure the future safety of our brave astronauts. Brad Kohrmann, a volunteer fire fighter from Eagle, Colorado, searched the state of Texas for debris from the shuttle in hopes of obtaining clues into this mysterious catastrophe.

Brad became part of an 18-person team designed and put together by the Forest Service to recover shuttle debris. Brad selflessly left his home and family to help since he understood that a firefighter's training would be of use to NASA in their search. Brad has worked to hone his attention to detail, which made him an ideal candidate for the search party.

Brad's team found many pieces from the shuttle; the biggest was a chunk of the bulkhead, which was four feet long and over six feet wide. The smallest piece they found was no bigger than a quarter inch. When a piece was discovered, the recovery team would mark the area, and transmit the coordinates to a Global Positioning Satellite. Brad estimated that his team walked about eight miles a day, covering farm country, creeks, and some swampland.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to speak before this Congress to highlight the contributions of Brad Kohrmann. He has sacrificed to assure the future safety of our astronauts as we lead the world in exploring the heavens. His actions exemplify the character and pride great Americans show in times of need by putting their country first. Thank you, Brad, for your work. You have done your country a tremendous service.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
ALISA L. FELLHAUER ON HER
APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Alisa L. Fellhauer of Port Clinton, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Alisa's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming

cadet class of 2007. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Alisa brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force Academy cadets. While attending the Port Clinton High School, Port Clinton, Ohio, Alisa has attained a grade point average of 3.88, which places her 13th in her class of 161 students. During her time at Port Clinton High School, Alisa has received several commendations for her superior scholastic efforts. During her first year, she received the Kiwanis Scholar Athlete Award. Her second year was marked by her being again awarded the Kiwanis Scholar Athlete Award as well as being inducted into the National Honor Society. Alisa went on in her senior year to maintain her role in the National Honor Society as well being selected for participation in a highly selective biology program.

Outside the classroom, Alisa has distinguished herself as an excellent student-athlete and dedicated citizen of Port Clinton. On the fields of friendly strife, Alisa has participated in Varsity Cross Country, Varsity Basketball, and Varsity Softball. She is a three times Cross Country letter winner and served as the Team Captain her senior year. In addition to her athletic accomplishments, Alisa is an active member in her community participating in Key Club, Future Professionals in Medicine, National Honor Society, Relay for Life, and the Buckeye Girl's State.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Alisa L. Fellhauer. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Alisa will do very well during her career at Air Force and I wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JENNIFER L. LEWIS ON HER APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Jennifer L. Lewis of Sandusky, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Jennifer's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2007. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Jennifer brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class

of West Point cadets. While attending Perkins High School, Sandusky, Ohio, Jennifer has attained a grade point average of 4.248, which places her first in her class of 152 students. During her time at Perkins High School, Jennifer has received several commendations for her superior scholastic efforts. Jennifer's accomplishments include being on the honor roll for all four years, placing third of fifty-four in the Greater Toledo Council of Teachers of Mathematics Integrated Math I exam and eighteenth of two hundred and four in the Greater Toledo Council of Teachers of Mathematics Geometry Exam.

Outside the classroom, Jennifer has distinguished herself as an excellent musician, athlete and dedicated citizen of Sandusky. On the fields of friendly strife, Jennifer participated in Track and Karate. In addition to her athletic accomplishments, Jennifer is an active member in her community participating in Huron Township Conservation Club.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Jennifer L. Lewis. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Jennifer will do very well during her career at the United States Military Academy and I wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
AARON M. WURST ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Aaron M. Wurst of Ottoville, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Aaron's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2007. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Aaron brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Ottoville High School, Ottoville, Ohio, Aaron has attained a grade point average of 4.0. During his time at Ottoville High School, Aaron has received several commendations for his superior scholastic efforts. Aaron's accomplishments include Academic Letters, being awarded the Voice of Democracy School winner, was selected to participate in several highly selective mathematics competitions, as well as being inducted into the National Honor Society.

Outside the classroom, Aaron has distinguished himself as an excellent athlete. On the fields of friendly strife, Aaron participated in Cross Country where he earned his Varsity Letter, Basketball, and Track. In addition to his

athletic accomplishments, Aaron is an active member in the student council where he served as his Class President and the drama club.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Aaron M. Wurst. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Aaron will do very well during his career at the United States Military Academy and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

SMOKELESS TOBACCO

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the United States Tobacco Company has requested that it be allowed to market certain dangerous and addictive products as less harmful than cigarettes. UST would like to market these products immediately without regulation by a health agency.

I recently obtained UST documents that speak to the clear need for effective and comprehensive regulation prior to any health claims for smokeless tobacco. Because it is in the public's interest to review the content of these documents, I am inserting them into the public record, along with a "dear colleague" letter I recently circulated, the UST response, and a letter I sent yesterday to House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman BILLY TAUZIN on this matter.

APRIL 28, 2003.

SHOULD SMOKELESS TOBACCO BE MARKETED AS "REDUCED RISK"?

DEAR COLLEAGUE: In recent weeks, the United States Smokeless Tobacco Company, Incorporated (UST), the country's largest manufacturer of smokeless tobacco products, has begun to lobby Congress for permission to tell potential customers that using smokeless tobacco is safer than smoking cigarettes. The request follows a prior petition to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which UST has now withdrawn, in which UST proposed telling consumers: "Many researchers in the public health community have expressed the opinion that the use of smokeless tobacco involves significantly less risk of adverse health effects than smoking cigarettes."

It would be a serious mistake for Congress to endorse "reduced risk" claims proposed by UST outside of effective regulation of tobacco products. Attached are two documents from the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids on (1) smokeless tobacco and (2) UST's request to Congress. I would draw your attention to several key points:

"Reduced risk" claims need to be scrutinized carefully. If new claims that smokeless tobacco is safer than cigarettes cause fewer smokers to quit tobacco altogether, or if these claims encourage non-tobacco users—especially young people—to begin using smokeless tobacco products, any theoretical benefit to those switching from cigarettes to smokeless tobacco products may be undermined. That's why the Institute of Medicine and other experts who favor risk reduction strategies, including several tobacco control advocates cited by UST, actually believe that such claims should be made only with regulatory oversight. A regulatory system would allow close monitoring of health

claims and assessment of the true impact on death and disease rates.

The Swedish model does necessarily not apply to the United States. UST points to Sweden as a country with relatively high levels of smokeless tobacco use and relatively low levels of cigarette smoking. Yet Sweden's situation is considerably different. First, Swedish smokeless tobacco is a different product from the one that UST makes. Second, Sweden also has tight restrictions on tobacco products, including high taxes and a marketing ban. Third, Sweden does not allow health claims to be made for smokeless tobacco products.

UST does not have a responsible track record. The U.S. Surgeon General, the National Cancer Institute, and other major scientific and public health agencies have concluded that smokeless tobacco poses significant health risks, causes oral cancer and other noncancerous oral conditions, and can lead to nicotine addiction. UST, however, has recently asserted that "smokeless tobacco has not been shown to be a cause of any human disease." The company also has a long history of marketing to children, including flouting restrictions on marketing to minors and the addition of cherry, mint, and other flavorings that increase their products' appeal to youth. This record indicates the need for close regulatory oversight of any health claims made by the company.

With cigarette smoking responsible for more than 400,000 deaths in the United States each year, there is reason to consider non-conventional strategies to save lives. However, these strategies should be based upon science and carefully monitored in a regulatory scheme to assure that they do not cause more harm than good.

If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Sharfstein on the minority staff of the Government Reform Committee (202) 225-5420.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Ranking Minority Member.

SMOKELESS ("SPIT") TOBACCO IN THE UNITED STATES: AN OVERVIEW OF THE HEALTH RISKS AND INDUSTRY MARKETING AIMED AT CHILDREN

What do the experts say about smokeless tobacco?

Smokeless tobacco in the United States causes cancer.

Smokeless tobacco in the United States is not a safe alternative to cigarettes.

Smokeless tobacco in the United States is not regulated and any health claims about the product have not been verified by an independent, objective government authority.

Smokeless tobacco manufacturers in the United States have systematically marketed their products to children and adolescents.

Smokeless tobacco, and the manner in which it is manufactured, marketed and sold, in the United States is substantially different from what is occurring in Sweden.

U.S. Surgeon General:

"After a careful examination of the relevant epidemiologic, experimental, and clinical data, the committee concludes that the oral use of smokeless tobacco represents a significant health risk. It is not a safe substitute for smoking cigarettes. It can cause cancer and a number of non-cancerous oral conditions and can lead to nicotine addiction and dependence."

"The scientific evidence is strong that the use of snuff can cause cancer in humans. The evidence for causality is strongest for cancer of the oral cavity, wherein cancer may occur several times more frequently in snuff dippers compared to non-tobacco users. The ex-

cess risk of cancer of the cheek and gum may reach nearly fifty-fold among long-term snuff users."

U.S. National Cancer Institute:

"The bioassay data strongly support the epidemiological observation that ST is carcinogenic to humans. Twenty-eight carcinogens have been identified in chewing tobacco and snuff. The high concentrations of N-nitrosamines in ST, and especially the high levels of TSNA, are of great concern."

"The evidence that NNK and NNN play a role in human oral cancer induced by snuff is strong. Both compounds are present in significant amounts in snuff and in the saliva of snuff dippers. They are metabolically activated in snuff dippers to intermediates that bind to hemoglobin. They cause oral tumors in rats and are metabolically activated by rat and human oral tissue. Although there are many questions about the mechanisms by which snuff causes oral tumors in rats and humans, there is no doubt that the presence of NNK and NNN in snuff is an unacceptable risk to people who choose to use these products."

U.S. National Toxicology Program:

"The oral use of smokeless tobacco is known to be a human carcinogen based on sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity from studies in humans which indicate a causal relationship between exposure to smokeless tobacco and human cancer."

"Smokeless tobacco has been determined to cause cancers of the oral cavity. Cancers of the oral cavity have been associated with the use of chewing tobacco as well as snuff which are the two main forms of smokeless tobacco used in the United States."

World Health Organization:

"There is conclusive evidence that certain smokeless tobacco products increase risk of oral cancer, specifically . . . smokeless tobacco in the United States."

MARKETING SMOKELESS ("SPIT") TOBACCO TO KIDS

The smokeless tobacco companies have a long history of creating new products that appeal to kids and marketing them aggressively to children. Their efforts have created a whole new market for spit tobacco—in kids.

A SHIFT FROM OLDER TO YOUNGER SMOKELESS TOBACCO USERS

Since 1970, smokeless tobacco has gone from a product used primarily by older men to one used predominantly by young men and boys. In 1970, males 65 and older were almost six times, as likely as those ages 18-24 to use smokeless tobacco regularly (12.7 percent vs. 2.2 percent. By 1991, however, young males were 50 percent more likely than the oldest ones to be regular users. (8.4 percent vs. 5.6 percent. This pattern holds especially true for moist snuff, the most popular type of smokeless tobacco. From 1970 to 1991 the regular use of moist snuff by 18-24 year old males increased almost ten-fold, from less than one percent to 6.2 percent. Conversely, use among males 65 and older decreased by almost half, from 4 to 2.2 percent. Among all high school seniors who have ever used smokeless tobacco, almost three-fourths began by the ninth grades.

Despite some recent declines in youth smokeless tobacco use, 14.8 percent of all boys in U.S. high schools—and 1.9 percent of high-school girls—currently use smokeless tobacco products. In some states, smokeless tobacco use among high school males is particularly high, including Montana (25.2 percent), Wyoming (28.6 percent), West Virginia (33.0 percent), and Arkansas (24.9 percent).

UST (the parent company of the U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company) is the biggest smokeless tobacco company in the United States. It controls about 40 percent of the total U.S. smokeless tobacco market, including 75 percent of the moist snuff tobacco